

The Director  
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

30 October 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Central Intelligence Agency Information Act

1. On 15 October 1984 the President signed the Central Intelligence Agency Information Act into law. This legislation, by amending the National Security Act of 1947, removes the Agency's sensitive operational files from the search, review, and disclosure requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, the Act authorizes the Director of Central Intelligence to designate as exempt from the FOIA certain categories of operational files of the Directorate of Operations; the Directorate of Science and Technology; and the Office of Security, Directorate of Administration. The specific provisions of the new legislation and how the Agency will implement them are contained in [redacted] File Designation Under the Freedom of Information Act.

2. The new legislation, however, in no way alters the applicability of existing exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act so that we can continue to protect sensitive information located in nondesignated files.

3. There is a two-fold benefit from the new law. The Agency will benefit through reducing the risks of exposing sources and methods in response to FOIA requests. The public will benefit through receiving responses in a far more timely manner and without any meaningful loss of information. Indeed, I have made specific commitments to the Congress to bring about a substantial reduction in the current backlog of FOIA requests. To accomplish this goal, I also am committed to maintaining the Agency's current level of budgetary and personnel resources devoted to the FOIA for two years following enactment.

4. I am very pleased that we now can exempt our sensitive operational files from the FOIA process. I likewise expect continuing commitment throughout the Agency to the principles of FOIA while we implement this new legislation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William J. Casey".

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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